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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 254
By Hargett

A RESOLUTION to honor Jackie Brewer as the Victim Advocate
of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor those citizens who have faced incredible challenges and have emerged as caring and compassionate advocates dedicated to increasing public awareness of important societal issues; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Jackie Brewer is one such exemplary individual who was recently named the Victim Advocate of the Year by the Shelby County Victims Assistance Center for her untiring efforts to inform the public on issues facing victims of crime; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Brewer's outstanding work on behalf of crime victims began after she suffered two gunshot wounds during an attempted robbery of her and her husband, Steve, in June, 1995; and

WHEREAS, Jackie lost one eye and has limited vision in the other eye as a result of the crime committed by a 12-year-old neighbor who received minimal punishment; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Brewer was determined to take back control of her life and speak out, volunteering her time on behalf of crime victims; and

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WHEREAS, with the support and encouragement of the staff of the Victims Assistance Center, she spoke out on behalf of the Victim Rights Bill and the Constitutional Amendment, addressed a public hearing sponsored by U.S. Senator Fred Thompson on juvenile crime and addressed a forum on Block Grant Funds to encourage public funding of programs for victims of crime; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Brewer has also volunteered her time at the Victim Assistance Center, appeared on local television shows and in newspapers discussing juvenile crime and victims' issues; and

WHEREAS, Jackie's determination to rebuild her life following the shooting led her to take a basic personal safety course; she later became certified as a firearms instructor, which serves as a personal triumph for her; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Brewer does not teach or advocate that people use guns or violence to combat crimes, but she does endorse crime prevention and stiffer penalties for offenders, particularly juvenile offenders; and

WHEREAS, she has worked extremely hard to recover from her physical and emotional scars working as a full-time accountant, taking care of her home and family, volunteering time to help other crime victims and working with young people at her church; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Brewer's faith, motivation and the support of her family, friends and the Victims Assistance Center has helped her to overcome adversity and increase awareness of victims' rights; and

WHEREAS, she is most appreciative of the love, support and companionship of her husband, Steve, who nominated her to receive the Victim Advocate of the Year award; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Brewer's undying courage and outstanding contributions should serve as an inspiration to everyone; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate Mrs. Jackie Brewer upon being named Victim Advocate of the Year and commend her for her countless contributions toward raising public awareness of issues facing victims of crimes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.